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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Diego Carmello et al.

International Application No.: PCT/IB99/00065

International Filing Date: January 6, 1999

For: CATALYST, PROCESS FOR ITS PREPARATION, AND ITS USE IN THE
SYNTHESIS OF 1,2-DICHLOROETHANE

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
BOX PCT RO/EO/US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits in the above-identified patent application,
Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered, without prejudice:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9.

Please add claims 1-21 as follows:

A 2 10. A catalyst comprising a support, said support consisting essentially of γ -alumina, said catalyst further comprising a first layer containing magnesium and a second layer containing copper and, optionally, lithium.